



*Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors*

*Lee Holloway*

*Chairman of the Board*

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or [harold.mester@milwcnty.com](mailto:harold.mester@milwcnty.com)

### **CHAIRMAN HOLLOWAY STATEMENT ON 2009 BUDGET SURPLUS**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway released the following statement in response to preliminary data indicating an \$8.9 million surplus in the 2009 Milwaukee County Budget:

“It’s clear that my vision for employee benefit reform is responsible for this surplus. This model, approved by the County Board and County Executive in 2006, is now reaping huge benefits for County taxpayers, generating tens of millions of dollars worth of savings in just a few years. In particular, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2009 saw some impressive results on our employee health care usage.

“This private-sector model resulted in the appointment of David Arena to serve as the Director of Employee Benefits. This department is largely responsible for the County’s ability to negotiate more favorable terms with health care providers and bring our spiraling health care costs under control. Prior to this action, no one was monitoring the County’s health care costs and working with providers to bring costs down.

“The employees of Milwaukee County need to be recognized for sacrifices they made during 2009, including furlough days. We were able to avert the County Executive’s proposed 35-hour workweek. At the time, I said that proposal was a knee-jerk reaction and not necessary. I stand by that assertion and hope that the County Executive uses a more thoughtful and creative method of assessing budget matters as we move through 2010.”

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